

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-7, 10 and 11 are all the claims pending in the application.

**Response to Claim Rejections Under §§ 102/103**

Claims 1-7 and 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,197,870 to Sakakibara. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The present claims are directed to a rubber composition for a tire tread comprising 10-250 parts by weight of a carbon black per 100 parts by weight of a rubber component, wherein the carbon black has a hydrogen desorption ratio  $> 0.260-6.25 \times 10^{-4} \times \text{CTAB}$  (wt%), a toluene tinting permeability of not less than 90% and a cetyltrimethylammonium bromide adsorption specific surface area (CTAB) of 111-200  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ .

As shown in the attached Rule 132 Declaration by Mr. Yanagioka, the carbon blacks in Examples 4-7 of Sakakibara do not satisfy either of (1) a hydrogen desorption ratio  $> 0.260-6.25 \times 10^{-4} \times \text{CTAB}$  (wt%), or (2) a toluene tinting permeability of not less than 90%. Thus, Sakakibara fails to disclose or suggest the carbon black used in the present invention.

In addition, Sakakibara fails to disclose or suggest the hydrogen desorption ratio and the toluene tinting permeability of the carbon black. Furthermore, there is no motivation in Sakakibara for defining that a hydrogen desorption ratio of the carbon black is more than  $0.260 - 6.25 \times 10^{-4} \times \text{CTAB}$  (wt%) and a toluene tinting permeability of the carbon black is not less than 90%.

Thus, Sakakibara fails to anticipate or render obvious the present claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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